

15 March 2022

CThumanities

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Dear Senator Hartley, Representative Currey, Senator Martin, Representative Buckbee, and the distinguished members of the Commerce Committee:

I write to you as Executive Director of the Connecticut Humanities Council (CT Humanities) and thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HB 5374, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO COMMEMORATE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL. Our organization is honored to be named in this legislation along with other esteemed colleagues and organizations. We undertake this role and responsibility very seriously and assure you of our commitment to this commission and to its intended outcomes.

The road to the semiquincentennial on July 4, 2026 is already here. Connecticut and its people played a profoundly important role in our nation's birth from revolutionary ideals to transformative action in the years leading up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Military engagements, industrial growth, and personal and family sacrifice forged Connecticut during the American Revolution.

Connecticut has been and continues to be a national leader in representative government. Our centuries-long civic tradition has inspired and informed the rights of individuals and the electoral process. The Fundamental Orders of 1639, the Connecticut Compromise of 1787, the Constitution of 1818, and the Connecticut Constitutional Convention of 1965 represent both electoral milestones in the state's history and key elements of the governing foundation of the United States.

On the vanguard of representative government for nearly four hundred years, Connecticut continues this trajectory into the future. Our government continues to move towards greater representation and equity. And now, more than ever before, we must bolster the foundation of our democracy. Building awareness of our past and imagining our civic vibrancy in the future, we must share and invest in our state's story – through education programs, cultural tourism, and public arts and public humanities initiatives.

The commission will convene partners and organizations to uplift the people and places across Connecticut that were central to the story of Connecticut and the founding of this nation.

Our story continues, though, and our state has much to contribute to as we strive to achieve "a more perfect union."

I urge your support of this bill.

Sincerely,



Jason R. Mancini, Ph.D.
Executive Director